

Sir IELTS





High Score 100 IELTS Words

400 IELTS AWL (Victoria Univ. NZ) 1

At beginning this Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. We added multiple language explanations to save time for ESL students.

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abandon: lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

abstract: theoretical; not concrete; not applied or practical; difficult to understand

academic: related to school; not practical or directly useful; relating to scholarly organization; based on formal education

access: approach; entry; entrance

accommodation: living quarters provided for public convenience

accompany: travel with; be associated with

accumulation: increase by natural growth or addition; concentration

accurate: capable of providing a correct reading or measurement; performing with care and precision

achieve: gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

acquisition: act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

adaptation: modification; alteration or adjustment in structure or habits

adequate: sufficient; enough to meet a purpose

adjacent: adjoining; neighboring; close to; lying near

adjustment: making or becoming suitable; adjusting to circumstances

administration: management; supervision; people who are in charge for management; activity of government for powers and duties

advocate: speak, plead, or argue in favour of; plead for; push for something



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affect: have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

aggregate: gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

aid: person or thing that promotes or helps in something done; helper; assistant

albeit: even though; although; notwithstanding

alter: modify; cause to change; make different; convert

alternative: one of two or more things, ideas or courses of action that may be used; option; choice

ambiguous: unclear or doubtful in meaning

amendment: correction; revision

analogous: comparable; similar or alike

analysis: study; investigation; process of breaking down a substance into its constituent parts

annual: occurring or payable every year

apparent: capable of being seen, or easily seen; open to view; visible to eye

appendix: something appended or added

appreciation: recognition; taste; judgment or opinion, especially a favorable one

approach: access; method

appropriate: acquire; take possession of for one's own use; set apart for specific use

approximate: approach; come near

arbitrary: randomly chosen; determined by chance or impulse, and not by reason or principle

area: plane surface, as of the floor of a room; open space in a building; the enclosed space; extent; scope; range

assembly: gathering; meeting; a group of persons gathered together for common reason



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assessment: act of judging or assessing; amount determined as payable

assistance: activity of contributing to fulfillment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose

assume: suppose; presume; take on; bear

assurance: promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence; freedom from doubt

attached: fastened together; joined by wall, especially by sharing a wall with another building; not freestanding

author: beginner, former, or first mover of anything; creator; originator; one who composes or writes book or composer

authority: jurisdiction; power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge; government

available: convenient for use or disposal; not busy, free; obtainable; accessible

aware: knowing; having knowledge or cognizance

behalf: represent; advantage, benefit, interest of someone

benefit: advantage; something that aids or promotes well-being; welfare; gain

bias: preference or inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment; influence in unfair way

bond: link; connection; uniting force or tie; binding agreement; duty

brief: short in time, duration, length, or extent; concise

bulk: majority; main part; volume; mass

capable: having the ability required for a specific task

capacity: mental or physical ability; ability to accommodate

challenge: assert a right; raise a formal objection; take exception to



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channel: passage for water or other fluids to flow through; bed of a stream or river; route of communication or access

chapter: division of a book or treatise; assembly of monks; bishop's council; organized branch of some society

chart: graph; diagram; map showing coastlines, water depths, or other information of use to navigators

civil: having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite

clarity: clearness of thought or style; brightness; splendor

classical: of recognized authority or excellence

clause: sentence; phrase; distinct article, stipulation, or provision in a document

code: body of law; system of rules or regulations relating to one subject; system of symbols, letters, or words

coherence: logical and orderly and consistent relation of parts; state of cohering or sticking together

coincide: occur at the same time as; correspond

collapse: breakdown; failure

commission: fee for services; group of people appointed to find out about something; authorize

commitment: pledge, undertaking; act of binding yourself to a course of action

commodity: goods; article of trade; advantage; benefit.

communication: activity of communicating; activity of conveying information

community: society; a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government

compensation: something given or received as payment as for a service or loss or injury

complement: complete; consummate; make perfect

complex: complicated in structure; a whole structure, as a building, made up of interconnected or related structures



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component: element; ingredient; abstract part of something

comprehensive: thorough; including all or everything; broad in scope

comprise: include; consist of; be composed of

concept: something formed in the mind; thought or notion

concurrent: simultaneous; coincident; occurring or operating at the same time

conduct: direct the course of; manage or control; lead or guide

conference: meeting for consultation or discussion; exchange of views

confirmed: being firmly settled in habit; having been ratified; verified; fixed; established

conflict: fight; struggle; incompatibility of dates or events

conformity: similarity in form or character; agreement

consent: agree in opinion or sentiment; be of the same mind; accord; concur; allow

considerable: worthy of consideration; large in amount, extent, or degree

consistent: being in agreement with itself; coherent; regular

constant: invariable; repeating; continually occurring; persistent

constitutional: of or relating to a constitution, or establishment form of government

construction: act of constructing or building something

consumer: people who buy goods or services

contact: get in touch with; reach

contemporary: modern; belonging to the same period of time

context: circumstance



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contract: constrict; make smaller; compress or concentrate

contradiction: assertion of the contrary to what has been said or affirmed; denial of the truth of a statement or assertion

contrary: relation of direct opposition; very opposed in nature or character or purpose

contrast: act of distinguishing by comparing differences

contribution: act of contributing; contribution; payment exacted for special purpose; impost or levy

controversy: contentious speech act; argument

convention: social or moral custom; formal meeting of members, representatives, or delegates; agreement between states

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At beginning this Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. We added multiple language explanations to save time for ESL students.

conversely: in a converse manner; with change of order or relation; reciprocally.

convinced: certain, sure

cooperative: done with or working with others

coordination: regulation of diverse elements into an integrated and harmonious operation

core: basic, center, or most important part; essence

corporate: united or combined into one body; collective; belonging to corporation or incorporated body

corresponding: accompanying



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couple: a male and female associated together; a pair who associate with one another

create: make or cause to be or to become; invest with a new thing

credit: arrangement for deferred payment for goods and services; money available for a client to borrow

criteria: standard, rule, or test on which a judgment or decision can be based

crucial: of extreme importance; vital to the resolution of a crisis; of the greatest importance

currency: money; general acceptance or use

cycle: periodically repeated sequence of events; long period of time; entire round in a circle or a spire

data: collection of facts, observations, or other information related to a particular question or problem

debate: discussion; dispute; discussion involving opposing points

decline: change toward something smaller or lower ; gradual falling off from a better state

definite: fixed; exact; having distinct limits

definition: clarity of outline; concise explanation

demonstrate: show clearly and deliberately; manifest; confirm; prove

denote: indicate; signify directly; refer to specifically

deny: disagree with; refuse; declare untrue

depression: recession; economic slump; concavity in a surface produced by pressing ; sadness; low spirits

design: act of working out the form of something; creation of something in the mind; formulate a plan for

despite: lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike; disdain, contemptuous feelings, hatred



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device: technique or means; instrument; machine used to perform one or more relatively simple tasks

discretion: knowing how to avoid embarrassment or distress; trait of judging wisely and objectively

displacement: act of removing from office or employment

display: exhibit; present or hold up to view; show; demonstrate; give evidence of; manifest

distinction: excellence or eminence; note or mark of difference

distribution: act of distributing or spreading or apportioning

diversity: point or respect in which things differ; difference

document: provide written evidence; record in detail

domain: field; territory over which rule or control is exercised; networked computers that share a common address

domestic: house-hold; of or relating to the home ; within the country or home

dominant: major; important; outweighing

draft: rough outline; draw up an outline; sketch

dramatic: striking; sensational in appearance or thrilling in effect

duration: length of time something lasts

dynamic: energetic; vigorously active

economic: pertaining to economy; frugal; cheap

edition: whole number of copies of a work printed and published; single copy; act of editing

eliminate: eradicate; abolish; rule out

emphasis: special attention or effort directed toward something; stress

empirical: derived from experiment and observation rather than theory



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enable: supply with the means, knowledge, or opportunity; make able; make feasible or possible

energy: exertion of force; capacity for work or vigorous activity; usable heat or power

enormous: very great in size, extent, number, or degrees; huge; massive

ensure: make sure or certain; insure; assure

environment: surroundings; totality of surrounding conditions

equation: making equal; equal division; equality; equilibrium

equipment: apparatus

equivalent: interchangeable; comparable; equal, as in value, force, or meaning

erosion: corrosion; a gradual decline of something

estate: extensive landed property; everything you own; all of your assets

estimate: judge to be probable; form an opinion about; evaluate

ethnic: relating to races; group of people sharing common racial, national, or religious heritage

eventually: ultimately; in the final result or issue; in the end

evidence: something which makes evident or manifest; any mode of proof

evolution: development; progression

exceed: go beyond; be or do something to a greater degree

exhibit: show, make visible or apparent

expansion: growth; extent or amount by which something has expanded

expert: person with a high degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain subject

explicit: precisely and clearly expressed; definite; outspoken

exploitation: unfair use of someone's work giving little in return



High Score 100 IELTS Words

export: sell or transfer abroad

exposure: risk, particularly of being exposed to disease; unmasking; act of laying something open

external: exterior; outer; suitable for application to the outside

extract: draw or pull out, usually with some force or effort; remove; get despite difficulties or obstacles

facilitate: help bring about; make less difficult

federal: of or relating to central government; national

file: line; proceed in line

final: forming or occurring at the end; terminating; ultimate; conclusive

financial: monetary; pertaining or relating to money matters

finite: having a limit; limited in quantity, degree, or capacity; bounded

flexibility: quality of being adaptable or variable

focus: most important thing; a fixed reference point; center of interest or activity

format: pattern; design; set into a specific pattern

formula: plan; directions for making something; a group of symbols that make a mathematical statement

forthcoming: ready or about to appear; making appearance

foundation: basis on which something is grounded

framework: fundamental structure, as for a written work; skeleton

function: act of executing or performing any duty; assigned duty or activity

fundamental: relating to foundation or base; elementary; primary; essential

furthermore: in addition; moreover



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gender: sexual identity, especially in relation to society or culture; category

generation: all offspring at same stage from common ancestor; interval of time between the birth of parents and their offspring

global: worldwide; international; having the shape of a globe

grade: step or degree in any series, rank, quality, order; relative position or standing

guarantee: pledge that something will happen or that something is true

hence: from this place; from this time; from this reason; as an inference or deduction

hypothesis: assumption; theory

identical: duplicate; alike; being the exact same one

ideology: study of origin and nature of ideas

image: visual representation; representation of a person

immigration: migration into a place; moving into a place

impact: forceful consequence; strong effect; influencing strongly

implicit: implied or understood though not directly expressed

incentive: something, such as the fear of punishment or the expectation of reward

incidence: rate of occurrence; particular occurrence

inclination: preference; tendency; inclined surface; slope

income: gain from labor, business, property, or capital

incompatible: inharmonious; impossible to coexist; not easy to combine harmoniously

index: anything which shows, indicates, manifests, or discloses; prologue indicating what follows; second digit



High Score 100 IELTS Words

indicate: point out; direct to a knowledge of

individual: single person or thing; human regarded as a unique personality

inevitably: unavoidably; in a manner that is impossible to avoid or prevent

infrastructure: underlying base or foundation especially for an organization or system

inherent: firmly established by nature or habit

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At beginning this Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. We added multiple language explanations to save time for ESL students.

initial: early; preliminary; occurring at the beginning

injury: any physical damage to body caused by violence or accident or fracture

innovation: introduction of something new

insert: input; enter; put or set into, between, or among

inspection: formal or official examination

instance: example that is cited to prove a contention or illustrate a point; case or occurrence

institute: advance or set forth in court; association organized to promote art or science or education

integral: essential or necessary for completeness; entire

integrity: quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness

intelligence: ability to comprehend; understand and profit from experience; intellect; power of cognition

interaction: communication; a mutual or reciprocal action; interacting



High Score 100 IELTS Words

intermediate: middle; lying between two extremes

internal: inside; interior; located within the limits or surface

interpretation: explanation; performer's distinctive personal version of a song, dance, piece of music

interval: pause; break; space between two objects, points, or units

intervention: interference; interfering in some course of events

intrinsic: relating to essential nature of a thing; inherent; built-in

investigation: detailed inquiry or systematic examination; inquiry

isolated: remote; secluded; placed or standing apart or alone

journal: magazine; periodical; log; diary; a ledger in which transactions have been recorded as they occurred

justification: good or just reason; condition or fact of being justified

label: paper affixed to anything by inscription; slip of ribbon, parchment; writing annexed by way of addition

labour: effort expended on particular task; act of mother giving birth; time period during which mother gives birth

layer: tier; a relatively thin sheet like expanse or region lying over or under another

lecture: teaching by giving a discourse on some subject; speech that is open to the public

legal: created by, permitted by law; according to the law of works

legislation: lawmaking; the act of making or enacting laws ; law enacted by a legislative body

levy: impose fine or tax; collect payment

liberal: open-minded; tolerant; broad-mindedness; having political views favoring reform and progress



High Score 100 IELTS Words

likewise: similarly; as well; too

link: be or become joined or united; connect, fasten, or put together two or more pieces

location: scene; site; place where something is or could be located

logic: reasoned and reasonable judgment; a system of reasoning

maintenance: preservation; support; continuance; court-ordered support paid by one spouse to another

major: greater in number, quantity, or extent; more important

manual: guide book; hand-operated

marginal: of or pertaining to a margin; written or printed in the margin

mature: develop and reach maturity; grow old or older

maximum: the largest possible quantity

mechanism: device; machine; the technical aspects of doing something

media: public institutions that report the news, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, and television

medium: state that is intermediate between extremes

mental: involving mind or intellectual process; affected by disorder of mind

method: orderly procedure or process; regular manner of doing anything

migration: movement of persons from one country or locality to another

military: pertaining to soldiers, to arms, or to war; of whole body of soldiers

minimal: the fewest; the least possible

minimum: the smallest possible quantity

ministry: act of serving; government department, at the administrative level normally headed by a minister



High Score 100 IELTS Words

mode: prevailing style; manner; way of doing something; fashion or style

motivation: incentive; psychological feature that arouses an organism to action toward a desired goal

mutual: common to or shared by two or more parties; shared

negative: adverse; involving disadvantage or harm; pessimistic

network: any system of lines or channels crossing like the fabric of a net; complex, interconnected group or system

neutral: impartial; not supporting one side over another

nevertheless: not the less; notwithstanding; in spite of that; yet

nonetheless: anyway; however

notion: general or universal conception; belief or opinion

notwithstanding: nevertheless; in spite of

nuclear: of, relating to, or forming a nucleus of an atom; pertaining to, or using nuclear weapons

objective: not influenced by emotions; having actual existence or reality

obvious: exposed; easily discovered; plain

occur: take place; be found to exist; come to one's mind

odd: not easily explained; beyond from the usual or expected; not divisible by two

offset: counterbalance, counteract, or compensate for; balance

ongoing: continuous; existing

option: act of choosing; power or freedom to choose

orientation: act of finding oneself position; position or alignment relative to points of directions; course introducing new situation



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output: act or process of producing; production; amount produced during a certain time

overall: general; comprehensive; from one end to the other; including everything

overlap: representation of common ground between two things; extend over and cover a part of

overseas: beyond or across the sea; abroad

panel: a group of people gathered for a special purpose; small board or pad

paradigm: one that serves as a pattern or model; system of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality

paragraph: distinct division of written or printed matter that begins on a new, usually indented line

parallel: make or place something to another's side; of or relating to multiple operations at same time; not intersecting

passive: lacking in energy or will; peacefully resistant in response to injustice

percent: out of each hundred; per hundred; one part in a hundred

period: duration, continuance, term; end of something

persistent: constant; never-ceasing

perspective: appearance of things; view, outlook, or vista

phase: any distinct time period in a sequence of events; stage

phenomenon: appearance; anything visible, in matter or spirit; extraordinary or very remarkable person, thing, or occurrence

philosophy: body of highest truth; investigation of nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge, or values, based on logical reasoning

physical: relating to the body as distinguished from the mind or spirit

plus: involving advantage or good; on the positive side or higher end of a scale

policy: settled method of government to administer; system of public or official administration



High Score 100 IELTS Words

portion: section or quantity within a larger thing; a part of a whole

positive: involving advantage or good ; greater than zero; very sure; confident

potential: existing in possibility; expected to become or be

preceding: ahead; prior to

precise: exact; clearly expressed; accurate or correct

predominantly: mainly; much greater in number or influence

preliminary: prior to or preparing for the main matter; introductory

presumption: act of presuming, or believing upon probable evidence; act of assuming; belief upon incomplete proof

previous: existing or occurring before something else

primary: of first rank or importance or value; essential or basic

prime: first in excellence, quality, or value; at the best stage; peak; first in degree or rank; chief

principal: highest in rank, authority, character, importance, or degree

principle: basic truth or law or assumption; rule or law of nature; rule of personal conduct

prior: preceding in the order of time; former; previous

priority: preceding in time, importance, or urgency

procedure: act or manner of moving forward; act performed; steps taken in an action

process: act of proceeding; continued forward movement; a series of actions

professional: engaged in, or suitable for a profession

project: any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted; program; plan; scheme

promote: help to flourish; advance in rank; publicize



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proportion: percentage; quotient obtained when a part is divided by the whole; part considered in relation to the whole

prospect: possibility of future success; belief about future

protocol: code of correct conduct ; rules governing socially acceptable behavior; record of transaction

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psychology: science that deals with mental processes and behavior

publication: act or process of publishing printed matter; communication of information to public

purchase: act or an instance of buying; something bought

pursue: follow in; go in search of or hunt for

qualitative: relating to quality; having the character of quality

quotation: passage or expression that is quoted or cited; practice of quoting from books

radical: drastic; extreme; arising from or going to a root or source; basic

random: without definite purpose, plan, or aim; having no specific pattern

range: limits within which something can be effective; variety of different things or activities

ratio: relation which one quantity or magnitude has to another of the same kind; rate; proportion

rational: consistent with; based on; using reason

refine: purify; make more precise; improve



High Score 100 IELTS Words

regime: form of government; government in power; administration; prevailing social system or pattern

region: province; district; tract; neighborhood; the upper air; sky or heavens; inhabitants of a district

relaxed: easygoing; made less tense or rigid; relieved

release: give off; liberate; grant freedom to; make something available

relevant: pertinent; having connection with matter at hand

reliance: dependence; certainty based on past experience

reluctant: not wanting to take some action; averse

research: inquire into; attempt to find out in scientific manner

resident: one who resides in a place permanently or for an extended period; dweller

resolution: determination; resolving to do something; formal statement of a decision

restore: give or bring back; return to its original condition

revenue: money which returns from an investment; annual income; reward

reverse: overturn; turn inside out or upside down; turning in the opposite direction

revision: modification; correction; act of altering

revolution: act of revolving; motion of body round a fixed point or line; rotation; total or radical change; fundamental change in political organization

rigid: stiff and unyielding; strict; hard and unbending; not flexible

role: normal activity of a person in particular social setting; part played by a performer

route: way for travel or transportation

scenario: screenplay; outline or model of an expected sequence of events

schedule: plan for an activity or event; arrange



High Score 100 IELTS Words

scheme: elaborate and systematic plan of action; chart or outline of a system or object

scope: range of one's perceptions, thoughts, or actions; extent; bound

section: one of several parts; pieces that fit with others to constitute a whole object

sector: particular aspect of life or activity; body of people who form part of society or economy

security: freedom from risk or danger; safety

select: taken from a number by preference; picked out as more valuable or excellent than others; of special value or excellence

sequence: serial arrangement in which things follow in logical order or a recurrent pattern

series: a number of things or events standing or succeeding in order; sequence

shift: moving from one setting or context to another; moving very slightly

significant: fairly large; important in effect or meaning

similar: nearly corresponding; somewhat like; having a general likeness

site: physical position in relation to the surroundings; position; location

solely: alone; only; without another

somewhat: to some extent or degree; rather; a bit; slightly

source: point of origin, such as spring, of stream or river; one that causes, creates, or initiates

specific: stated explicitly or in detail; definite

specified: given; thoroughly explained; adequately commented

sphere: ball; globe; a particular aspect of life or activity

stability: balance; constancy

statistics: a branch of applied mathematics concerned with the collection and interpretation of quantitative data



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status: position relative to others; standing

straightforward: proceeding in a straight course or manner; not deviating; honest; frank.

stress: put special emphasis on; utter with an accent; state of extreme difficulty, pressure, or strain

structure: complex construction or entity; complex composition of knowledge

subordinate: occupying lower rank; inferior; submissive

subsequent: following in time or order; succeeding; later

subsidiary: subordinate; secondary; serving to assist or supplement

successive: consecutive

sufficient: adequate; enough; being as much as is needed

sum: mount or whole of any number of individuals or particulars added together; principal points or thoughts when viewed together; amount

summary: brief statement that presents the main points

supplementary: added to complete or make up a deficiency

survey: poll; detailed critical inspection

survive: continue to live; endure or last

target: reference point to shoot at; goal intended to be attained

task: labor or study imposed by another; undertake; labor

team: a number of persons associated together in any work; a flock of wild ducks

technical: having special skill or knowledge; according to principle; formal rather than practical; relating to technique

technology: application of science, especially to industrial or commercial objectives



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temporary: not permanent; not lasting

tension: action of stretching something tight; anxiety; feelings of hostility

termination: end of something in time or space; result or outcome; conclusion

text: written words; book prepared for use in schools or colleges

theme: subject of conversation or discussion; topic; essay

theory: doctrine or scheme of things; general or abstract principles of any science

thereby: thus; accordingly; by that means; because of that

thesis: paper; dissertation; an unproved statement put forward as a premise in an argument

topic: subject of a speech, essay, thesis, discussion, or conversation

trace: follow, discover; make a mark or lines on a surface

transfer: shifting; conveyance or removal of something from one place, person, or thing to another

transformation: change in form, appearance, nature, disposition, condition, or the like

transition: going from one state of action to another

transmission: act of transmitting; automotive assembly of gears; sending of a signal

transport: carry from one place to another; carry away; deport

trend: popular taste; general direction in which something tends to move

trigger: cause something happen; set off

ultimately: as final consequence; at last; in the end

undergo: experience; suffer; pass through

underlying: lying under or beneath something; basic; implicit; taking precedence; prior

uniform: consistent; standardized; clothing of a particular group



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unique: without an equal; being the only one of its kind

utility: something useful; public service

validity: quality of having legal force or effectiveness

vehicle: automobile; means of conveying; medium

version: written work in a new form; edition; interpretation of a particular viewpoint

via: by the way of

virtually: almost completely; practically; essentially

visible: being often in public eye; obvious to the eye

vision: ability to see; sight; vivid mental image

visual: seen or able to be seen by the eye; visible; optical

volume: capacity; amount of space occupied by an object

voluntary: done or undertaken of one's own free will; unforced

welfare: benefit; something that aids health or happiness

whereas: considering that; it being the case that; since

whereby: by which; by what; how

widespread: spread or scattered over a considerable extent; occurring or accepted widely